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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

APRIL 1979

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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

April 1979

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

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Volume 9 Number 4

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.

2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.

3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).

4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.

6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.

7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.

8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.

10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.

11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.

12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

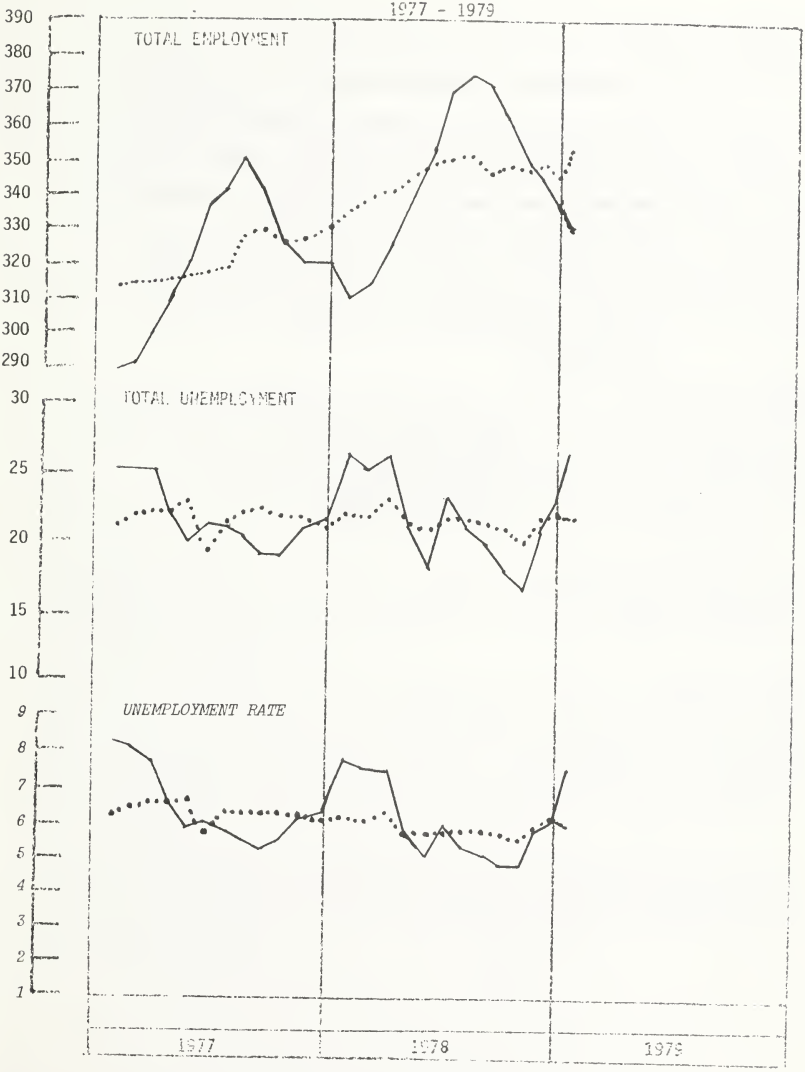
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.

14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: .....)

1977 - 1979



All Labor Force Statistics contained in this publication are in accordance with the Federal guidelines as established by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Methodology procedures use a household sample conducted in Montana on a monthly basis, called the Current Population Survey. These official statistics are used to allocate federal funding. Any questions concerning these figures should be directed to:

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* STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS *

Montana's civilian labor force increased by 7,500 during the past four weeks, reaching a March total of 366,100 persons. Comparing this figure with the one registered in March 1978 reveals an increase of 11,000, or 3.1%.

The employment and unemployment components of the civilian labor force also followed improving courses in March. The number of employed Montanans was 346,200 this month, compared with 336,500 in February and 328,600 twelve months ago. This amounts to a very healthy annual increase of 5.4%. Meanwhile, the number of individuals on the jobless rolls declined to 19,900 in March, after totals of 26,600 in January and 22,100 in February. Reflecting these component shifts, the statewide unemployment rate dropped to 5.4% from February's 6.2%. The current rate is even more indicative of improving conditions when compared with last year's March figure of 7.5%.

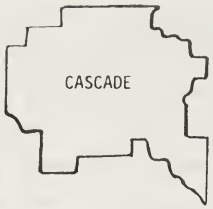
As suggested by general employment statistics, the hard Montana winter is finally coming to a close. However, persistent weather instability in many areas is having lingering effects on the economy. Construction, agriculture, and exploration oil drilling have suffered the most in the form of unstable employment demands and work delays. While each of these sectors has experienced activity increases during the past month, the rate of seasonal recovery may be somewhat slower in coming than in the past. Productivity in the lumber and wood products industry is also in a slowdown stage at the present time. However, in this case the problems are directly attributable to the normal spring breakup in the forests at this time of year.

A labor dispute involving many transportation workers throughout the nation affected parts of Montana as well. The dispute, which occurred during the first half of April, posed a potentially serious problem for the economy. Fortunately, a settlement was reached after a relatively short period, minimizing possible adverse economic consequences.

The current outlook for the economy of Montana remains one of slow growth. One indicator, new business formations, has shown positive movement relative to last year. Thus far in 1979, 1,416 new firms have been recorded compared with 1,293 for the same period in 1978. The composite index of six economic indicators also rose, from 97.4 in January to 98.9 in February. Real spendable earning influenced by a rising comsumer price index, displayed only slight improvement from January to February. Increasing by .4%, that figure reached $90.19, while at $219.57, gross average weekly earnings reflected a 1.9% rise.

The 46th Montana legislature adjourned on schedule in April, after passing a compromise tax package for the state. On one hand, the measures call for a one cent per gallon tax increase on gasoline, while on the other, Montanans will be provided with tax relief (predominantly reductions in income tax and property tax) totaling more than $44 million. The full economic implications for the coming years remain to be seen.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force stood at 35,100 persons in March, representing a 1.2% annual increase from the 34,700 level a year ago. Those holding jobs totaled 33,000 persons in March, which is a gain of 800 from the previous month and 900 from March 1978. Concurrently, the ranks of unemployed declined by 300 from February to March, leaving 2,100 individuals on the jobless rolls.

These shifts in the civilian labor force yield a rate of unemployment of 6.1% in March. That figure represents a 1.3 percentage point drop from the unemployment rate one year prior and .5 percentage point drop from last month.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The downtown business council is preparing for their spring promotion that is designed to reacquaint people with what the downtown area has to offer. The downtown area constitutes 350 business firms. Also, progress is being made on a downtown parking development.

A ten day national labor dispute in the transportation industry affected 250 workers in the area. Activities were back to normal in three days following the trucking shutdown.

Construction projects were hampered by weather conditions in March. However, many tradesmen have been notified by employers for construction work. Building permits for March were valued at nearly $1.2 million compared to $1.8 million last year. The 14 residential permits are down 60% from March 1978.

The education profession indicated the pressure of the times when 180 teaching contracts were not renewed for the upcoming school year. Of those teaching positions, an estimated 70 are expected to be rehired for combined curriculum positions and to fill vacancies created by resignations and retirements. A decline in student population is the main detrimental factor in the reduction.

Most of the 29 new businesses for the month are in the services and trade industries. Also, the local employment office's greatest activity was in the service and trade industries with nearly 300 placements. Agriculture demands have been steady at an average 26 placements per week.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in March increased to 53,400 from the February 52,900 total. This was a .9% increase over the 52,900 level reported one year ago. Employment for the month showed stronger gains. This year's March total of 51,300 was 800 greater than the February total and 1,600 greater than one year ago. This represents a 3.2% annual increase in employment from last year. It should be noted that such an increase at this time reflects nothing more than a traditional seasonal employment shift.

Unemployment in the SMSA was measured at 4.0%, which showed improvement over the February figure of 4.5% and the January 5.9% figure. In comparison to last year's March figure of 6.1%, the unemployment rate is dramatically improved. The number of unemployed in the county fell from 2,400 in February to 2,100 in March and was 1,100 behind the last year March count of 3,200.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Major construction projects highlight this month's report. Projects underway at the onset of winter had limited work completed in past months. Improving weather conditions have permitted completion on some projects and start-up on others. Recently completed projects include a 5,200 square foot complex, stereo sales center, and automated fertilizer plant (all of Billings). In Laurel, the recent opening of a fast food restaurant provided employment for 50 workers. Construction starts include a medical clinic valued at $450,000 in the Heights, warehouse additions of 57,700 square feet in the NP industrial park, and a truck terminal for a firm relocating to Billings. Firms relocating into renovated facilities continues. A shoe store, bootery, two restaurants, women's fashion shop, and a banking facility are some of the stores moving into existing facilities. This amount of activity indicates that the construction season is off to a good start. New construction starts lag last year's record because of a long winter, but by next month a lag in starts should not be noticeable.

A labor dispute involving the transportation industry idled 500 workers from April 1st to 12th. Because of the shortness of the labor dispute, no shortages in commodities available to the consumer occurred.

An energy development firm has purchased land near their existing Colstrip mining operation. The cost of the purchase is $33 million and should insure continued coal mining for the firm in the area. Calls for summer farm workers have been light at this time. Shortages of qualified workers are anticipated as agricultural activities pick up for summer operations. Conventions are providing an extra boost to consumer activities in the SMSA. Many businesses are preparing for the upcoming tourist season.

The employment outlook appears stable in most industry sectors with recalls of construction workers showing the greatest change over previous months. Qualified job seekers should find employment with little difficulty until the end of school when the market will be flooded with job seekers. New business openings and seasonal recalls will provide increasing employment opportunity until early summer for the SMSA.

ANACONDA - BUTTE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force for the LMA advanced to 35,300 in March. This was 300 greater than February and 900 greater than one year ago. Employment demonstrated similar increases. The March count of the employed was 33,300, which was 600 more than in February and 1,700 more than last year. Increases in both the civilian labor force and the number of employed are indicative of a good seasonal swing into summer employment levels.

Unemployment experienced favorable declines. The number of unemployed in March totaled 2,100; down 300 from February and down 800 from one year ago. Improved conditions were reflected in the unemployment rate. This year's March rate of 5.6% compared favorably with February's rate of 6.7% and with last year's March rate of 8.0%. Generally, the labor force statistics indicate the seasonal change from winter into summer at this time.

Economic Highlights & Employment Outlook:

Nearly 300 workers from the Anaconda smelting facility are without work as a result of a lack in available concentrates. This layoff is expected to end by June 1st. Construction on a new post office in Butte has started. The $2.19 million, 46,500 square foot project is to be completed July 1980. Construction has resumed on the Interstate Highway Project. Currently, 35 to 40 employees are at the site.

Agricultural activities this period focus on sheep shearing. Calls for summer workers have been reported by area Job Service offices. Spring breakup continues to hamper logging operations in the area. With warmer temperatures prevailing in the area, callbacks have started to occur for loggers.

Construction activities in the area show signs of picking up. A new restaurant is being constructed in Dillon. Throughout the LMA permits issued for the construction of residential units show a marked increase over previous months. A labor dispute involving 40 transportation industry workers idled activities at local trucking firms. This work stoppage ended April 12th and lasted 10 days. Celebration of the Butte centennial is underway. Local merchants should benefit from increased consumer activities resulting from the celebration.

The employment outlook appears good in all industry sectors as summer approaches. Currently, calls for clerical, service, and construction are highly noticeable. The reopening of area fast food restaurants and the onset of another tourist season accounts for much of the activity in the service sector. Summer hires for haying hands and farm workers are starting at this time. The peak hiring period is approximately one month away for agricultural workers. Availability of qualified farm workers is excellent at this time with some shortages expected to occur during the hiring peak next month. Other industry groups continue normal patterns of replacement hiring during this period.

BOZEMAN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The tri-county employment situation appears to be starting its seasonal improvement trend. The civilian labor force increased by 400 over the past month, reaching a March level of 26,600. In March 1978, the labor force had 1,300 fewer members than it currently does. The 25,400 people employed reflect an increase of 600 over the previous month. From February to March the number of job-holders increased by 200. These shifts, in turn, caused a drop in the area's rate of unemployment from 5.2% in February to 4.4% this month. Comparison of figures on a yearly basis reveals a 1.5 percentage point decline in the unemployment rate over the past twelve months.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

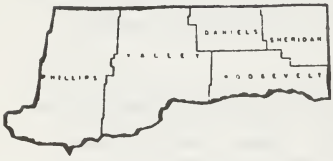
The completion date for the regional shopping center on Bozeman's west edge is slated for May 1980. Sixty different businesses will locate in the 300,000 square foot mall. The shopping center will double the current store floor space in Bozeman. Another shopping center will be developed in Livingston. Construction of the 22,800 square foot store area will begin in early April. The completion of the main building is scheduled for mid-September.

New business formations and building permits are off to a relatively slow start this year in Bozeman. First quarter new businesses and corporations are off 20% from last year's pace. Building permit values for March 1979 are nearly one-half of the total for March, 1978.

City of Bozeman gave layoff notices to 12 full-time and 3 part-time employees. The personnel cuts are part of the city's plan to deal with a potential general fund deficit.

Calving and the feeding and caring of livestock continue to be the main agricultural activities. The local Job Service offices note a demand for experienced farm and ranch couples.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The LMA is revealing the effects of the spring weather, as March's unemployment rate dropped to 4.2% from February's figure of 4.7%. The March employment also compares favorably with the March 1978 figure of 7.0%. The unemployed count remained the same from last month, at 700. In March last year the employed persons totaled 1,100.

GLASGOW LMA

The improvement in the employment picture is portrayed by an increase of 700 persons from February to March in both the civilian labor force, and employed workers. March figures now stand at 16,000 for the civilian labor force with 15,300 employed.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The ownership of the Glasgow Air Force Base (except housing) was conveyed to Valley County in a special ceremony with dignitaries from several State and Federal agencies. The county will be able to offer long-term leases of the multiple facilities to tenants and prospective businesses.

Construction work picked up substantially with warmer weather, but spring storms and flooding brought the activities into a slowdown with some layoffs. Among spring projects is a new storm sewer and drainage line to be installed on the southside of Glasgow.

Development of the Bentonite manufacturing facilities in the Glasgow LMA is well advanced. The Bentonite facility in Malta is in the process of hiring additional help as the plant is nearly ready to operate at full capacity. In Glasgow the mining operation employment has leveled off.

The threat of area flooding has caused local ranchers to move cattle to higher ground. Calving is well underway with most reports being favorable. Sales at a local livestock market set a new record in the cattle buying.

GLENDIVE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

After two months of stable civilian labor force, March registered a 600 increase to 13,800. The 600 growth was also reflected in the employment figures as March employment improved to 13,400 from 12,800 in February. When compared to one year ago, March's civilian labor force was basically the same, and employment was 3.9% more than last year.

Unemployment measured 400 in March. This was unchanged from last month and 400 less than March 1978. The unemployment rate in March was tallied at 3.1%. February rate was recorded at 3.4%. In comparison to last year's rate of 6.0%, this year's unemployment rate reflects strong improvement over last year's conditions.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Calving and lambing continue to dominate the agricultural activities. Area demand for farm couples and singles is picking up.

Oilfield activity is being limited by muddy field conditions. Nine new corporations and businesses in March were acknowledged in the oil related industries. The summer months should have strong employment as growth continues.

GLENDIVE LMA (Cont.)

In other outdoor work, railroad summer crews are being notified to start working in early April. A need for experienced craftsmen in carpentry has been expressed for building college dormitories in late April.

In Glendive, restaurants are looking for additional waitresses, cooks, and dishwashers.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The employment situation continues to enjoy the first stages of a seasonal resurgence in this area despite unstable weather patterns in recent weeks. The civilian labor force total climbed by 500 from February's level, reaching 12,400 in March. That figure represents a 6.0% increase over the 11,700 recorded in March 1978.

The number of employed persons rose by 600 during the past four weeks, achieving a total of 11,900 for the month of March. Compared with the 10,800 recorded one year ago, the current employment level reflects a very impressive 10.2% gain.

Unemployment exhibited a healthy trend as well, declining from 600 in February to 500 in March. These changes in the employment statistics yielded a reduction in the unemployment rate to 4.4% from 4.9% last month and 7.4% in March 1978.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Improving employment conditions in the LMA are reflective of a seasonal economic upswing taking place. Not only is outdoor work such as construction expanding, but also activity in many seasonal services. When compared with last year's figures, new business formations have shown an improved posture in the area. Fifteen new firms were established in March, while ten were started on the same month one year ago. In spite of the long winter, 44 new businesses have been recorded to date this year, compared with 41 during the first three months of 1978.

HAVRE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The Havre LMA enjoyed a much improved employment situation as winter conditions receded from the area. The civilian labor force increased by 300 from the previous month, reaching the 12,400 level in March. Employment gains were measured at 400, following an increase from 11,400 to 11,800. Comparable figures showed the civilian labor force at 12,200 and employment at 11,400 one year ago in March.

HAVRE LMA (Cont.)

The number of unemployed persons declined by 100 from February, to total 600 this month. Last year the March unemployed figure stood at 800. The unemployment rate for the LMA was improved over last month's rate of 6.0%. The March unemployment rate of 5.2% compared to a 6.5% rate recorded for one year ago.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Poor off-road conditions in mid-March and early April prevented exploration drilling for oil and gas. Conditions have improved since then, permitting a start-up in activity again. Construction has been held up by area weather conditions. When weather permitted outdoor work, some construction involving framing and remodeling was completed. New starts await seasonal temperatures suitable for concrete work.

Agricultural activities in the area indicate limited work now that the calving has ended. Calls for summer workers have not occurred at this time. Local hiring in the area indicates a pickup in the retail and service sectors. Most of this activity relates to summer and tourist oriented operations.

At present, employment activities are undergoing the changeover from winter into summer. The outlook appears good for employment demands. Residential construction activities appear stronger than last year at this time--a result of a winter-like spring. No major shortages of qualified workers can be determined at this time, as peak hiring activities are only at a start.

HELENA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Helena LMA continued a gradual climb during March, reaching a total of 28,100 persons during that month. The current total represents a 2.2% increase over the figure of 27,500 recorded in March 1978.

Employment rose from 26,200 in February to 26,700 this month, and despite the long winter, the present employment total is 3.9% higher than that of one year ago.

Unemployment statistics were also favorable again this month. The total number of jobless persons was 1,400 in March, compared with 1,800 in February, and 2,000 in January. The unemployment rate, which reflects the shifts in the composition of the civilian labor force, was lowered to 4.9%. The rate also compares very favorably with the 6.4% registered twelve months ago.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The ending of this year's legislative session will have mixed effects upon the general economy of the Helena LMA. Employment demands with the State generally show an increase after the legislators adjourn, having a positive influence on the outlook for jobs. However, with most lawmakers leaving town, area businesses are losing the temporary but important increases in economic activity generated by the biannual gathering.

HELENA LMA (Cont.)

A major grocery chain has expanded its Helena facilities by opening a new store recently. The establishment replaces the smaller, older store, and the staff has been increased by approximately 60 new employees.

Construction continues a hesitant seasonal resurgence this month. As in most parts of the state, weather conditions have created an "on again, off again" atmosphere in the industry. Generally speaking though, outside work is gradually gaining momentum. One significant source of work in this sector will be the construction of a major new shopping mall. Recent reports indicate that building will commence very soon.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The overall employment situation exhibited mixed movement in March, with increases in the civilian labor force and employment, and an increase in the number of unemployed persons as well.

The civilian labor force grew by 1,000 over February's number, reaching a total of 39,400 in March. Compared with the figure for the same month last year, this month's total reflects a substantial 5.9% increase.

Employment continued its seasonal climb during the past four weeks, posting an increase of 700 individuals, to reach a total of 36,000 for March. That amounts to a gain of 3,000, or 9.1% over the comparable period in 1978.

Unemployment, on the other hand, showed adverse movement for the month, increasing by 200 and bringing the total to 3,400. However, much of this increase is likely attributable to the temporary layoff of area loggers due to the spring breakup in the forests. Reflecting these changes in the statistics, the LMA unemployment rate rose slightly; from 8.4% in February to 8.5% in March.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Slowly improving weather conditions in the Kalispell LMA have not aided the lumber and woods products industry as yet. Spring breakup persists, forcing continued shutdown of logging operations, probably until mid-May. However, work in the sawmills is ongoing for the most part with a generally adequate supply of logs still available.

Reports indicate that activity in the service sector is improving in most areas. One exception to this trend is present in businesses relying on winter recreation, where some layoffs have occurred with the end of the season.

Housing is the current mainstay of construction activity in the area according to most observers. However, some commercial construction projects are taking place. Among the more notable of these is a 25 unit addition to a motel in the Libby area. Construction is also upcoming on the Tobacco Plains recreation area near the Libby Dam, after a Eureka firm was awarded the contract for more than $207 thousand.

KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

A new mining concern should also provide a boost to the economy of Libby in the coming months. The operation will process gold, silver, lead, zinc, and tungsten. Employment is expected to provide $10,000 to $15,000 per month in worker salaries and wages.

Hiring in the government sector should be increasing in the coming weeks, with Forest Service openings accounting for the majority of employment opportunities.

LEWISTOWN LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Employment statistics for the Lewistown LMA continued to improve during March. The civilian labor force totaled 10,600 for the month, compared with 10,100 in February, and 10,400 in March 1978.

The number of employed persons climbed by 500 from the previous month, totaling 10,100 in March. This amounts to a 5.2% increase over the 9,600 recorded one year ago.

Unemployment was unchanged for the month, with 500 persons without jobs in both February and March. The current number of unemployed compares favorably, however, with the 800 registered in March 1978. Furthermore, the area unemployment rate for the month was 4.4%, which represents a significant drop from the rate of 7.4% recorded during the same period one year ago.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The voters of Lewistown recently passed a $1.1 million bond issue for construction of a new city government and service complex. The building will house police and fire departments as well as city offices and courtroom. It is hoped that work on the structure will begin in the autumn of 1979, pending approval of construction plans and administration of the bond procedure.

Continuing problems with a railroad servicing parts of Montana are having an adverse affect on area employees. Some layoffs have been forced as a result of efforts by railroad officials to curtail operations in this state.

The employment outlook in most sectors continues to improve with the weather conditions. Outside work is experiencing the greatest advance, with agricultural preparations increasing and building projects resuming. The local Job Service office has reported a substantial decrease in the number of continuing unemployment insurance claims, attributing the decline to workers returning to their outdoor jobs.

MILES CITY LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force measured 14,900 in March, up 600 from the previous month. In comparison to last year, the civilian labor force this year was 500 greater. Employment in the LMA was up by 700 from the same count of 13,500 in February 1979 and March 1978. The increased employment calculates to a 5.2% improvement.

Unemployment in the LMA fell by 100, to 700 in March from the previous month. Last year the unemployment count in March measured 900. The March unemployment rate of 4.5% compared to 5.3% the preceding month and 6.4% one year ago.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction companies continue calling workers as the snow disappears and the mud dries up. Weather affected normal outdoor progress, with flooding threats and unseasonal cold and damp climate. A review of some of the larger construction projects in Miles City is as follows: multi-purpose recreation facility at the community college, downtown mini-mall development, national affiliated discount store, and more recent bank expansion costing $647,000.

Supply of workers is meeting the demands with a couple of exceptions. Shortages are noted in qualified farm and ranch hands and in restaurant occupations.

MISSOULA LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force reached 51,200 in March. This represented increases of 900 from the previous month and 2,800 from one year ago. The count in the number of employed had similar gains. Employment for March was measured at 47,800, which was up 1,200 from February and 3,400 from last year. Rapid employment expansion accompanied by moderate labor force expansion is typical of this time of year as summer returns.

Unemployment for the LMA was measured as 6.7% of the civilian labor force. Comparable rates reported February at 7.3% and one year ago at 8.2%. The count of the jobless totaled 3,400 in March. This was 300 less than the previous month and 600 less than one year ago. Again, these declines are reflective of the normal seasonal employment shift that takes place at this time.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction highlights the economic activities of the Missoula LMA. In or near Missoula, new construction starts include a new public swimming pool, railroad overpass, high school athletic complex, and a 350 unit subdivision. Missoula County reported 46 new residential permits valued at $1.8 million and 10 commercial construction permits valued at $2.5 million for March. In the Hamilton area, road construction activities are commencing.

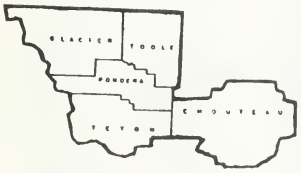
MISSOULA LMA (Cont.)

Agricultural activities are confined to lambing and seed potato sorting. Major hiring for summer workers in the industry is a month away. Falling and skidding of timber is now beginning in selected areas. Activities are limited to the accessibility of the timbered areas. A lack of logs in the Thompson Falls area has caused a layoff of 40 workers at one mill.

The transportation industry's labor dispute April 1-12 involved 60 workers in the area. No major adversity from the walkout is noted in the area. Activities in other industry groups are stable at this time.

The transition from winter to summer provides a good employment outlook in the LMA. Presently, hiring activities are high for service workers as fast food restaurants open for another season. The numerous new construction starts will provide employment to those craft workers idled by winter. Logging activities will return to normal as breakup ends. The general outlook for all industry groups is favorable at this time. As spring continues, hiring peaks will occur in some sectors of the economy. No major occupational shortages of qualified workers, as hiring activities peak, is noted at this time.

SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Employment conditions in this area showed an improved posture during March, with positive movements in each statistic. The civilian labor force increased by 700 individuals during the four week period, reaching 17,000 in March. With a figure of 16,700 recorded one year ago, the annual increase amounts to 1.8%.

Employment rose from 15,200 in February to 16,100 this month. The current figure also reflects a 3.9% rise from the 15,500 total of March 1978.

The number of individuals on the jobless rolls declined from 1,100 last month to 900 in March, contributing to a healthy decline in the unemployment rate from 6.9% to 5.3%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Largely due to continued unstable weather patterns, the economic conditions in the Shelby-Cut Bank LMA have shown little change during the past month.

The service sector has had the most consistent demand for employees recently, particularly in eating and drinking establishments. Oil exploration, on the other hand, has had unsteady work needs as some crews continue exploration while others are temporarily shutting down due to weather conditions.

Construction, too, has experienced some uncertainty with weather, but for the most part it has been showing increased activity in recent weeks. A significant project in the Browning area is the construction of a city park and recreation grounds. Work has been undertaken at an anticipated total cost of nearly $110 thousand. The coming months are expected to see further improving activity levels in this sector.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

MARCH 1979

Program	New Enrollees	Job Placements	End of Month Enrollment
WIN	372	108	264
CETA-CEP	79	53	230
CETA-INST.	61	39	272
CETA-OJT	27	18	81
JOB CORPS	47	27	470
PSE TITLE II	164	30	525
PSE TITLE VI	85	27	390
PSE TITLE VI-A	54	8	277
CETA - AWE	46	21	135
STIP I	0	6	11
HIRE II	30	20	82
STIP II	13	0	34

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.[1/]

(1967 = 100)

Group	MARCH 1979	*Percent Change From:* FEBRUARY 1979	MARCH 1978
All Items	209.1	*1.0*	*10.2*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED[2/]

MARCH 1979

Social Characteristics	*Percent of Total Covered Unemployment*
Non-White	*11.5%*
Female	*26.0%*
Youth	*8.1%*
Over 45	*20.9%*

1/ The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] Montana	Percent[1] U. S.	
1977								
January	315.8	290.3	267.7	22.6	25.5	*8.1*	*8.3*	*
February	318.4	292.9	268.1	24.8	25.5	*8.0*	*8.5*	*
March	327.2	301.9	272.0	29.9	25.3	*7.7*	*7.9*	.1
April	336.1	313.8	276.8	37.0	22.3	*6.6*	*6.9*	*
May	343.4	323.1	285.0	38.1	20.3	*5.9*	*6.4*	*
June	360.0	338.5	295.2	43.3	21.5	*6.0*	*7.5*	.1
July	364.4	343.2	297.0	46.2	21.2	*5.8*	*7.0*	3.4
August	374.5	353.7	304.4	49.3	20.8	*5.5*	*6.8*	.2
September	362.5	343.3	304.9	38.4	19.2	*5.3*	*6.6*	.1
October	347.0	327.8	295.3	32.5	19.2	*5.5*	*6.3*	.4
November	345.0	323.7	295.8	27.9	21.3	*6.2*	*6.4*	.3
December	345.7	323.7	299.8	23.9	22.0	*6.4*	*6.0*	*
Avg.	345.0	323.0	288.5	34.5	22.0	*6.4*	*7.0*	.4
1978								
January	338.7	312.1	290.1	22.0	26.6	*7.8*	*7.0*	*
February	342.5	316.8	292.9	23.9	25.7	*7.5*	*6.9*	*
March	355.1	328.6	300.0	28.6	26.5	*7.5*	*6.6*	*
April	365.9	344.5	309.4	35.1	21.4	*5.9*	*5.8*	*
May	373.6	354.9	318.8	36.1	18.7	*5.0*	*5.5*	.1
June	395.1	371.4	330.2	41.2	23.7	*6.0*	*6.2*	.4
July	396.5	375.0	330.9	44.1	21.5	*5.4*	*6.3*	.2
August	393.6	373.4	326.2	47.2	20.2	*5.1*	*5.8*	.1
September	382.0	363.9	327.1	36.8	18.1	*4.7*	*6.0*	.1
October	368.1	350.8	319.5	31.3	17.3	*4.7*	*5.4*	.1
November	367.6	346.4	319.5	26.9	21.2	*5.8*	*5.5*	.1
December	361.2	338.1	315.0	23.1	23.1	*6.4*	*5.6*	.1
Avg.	370.0	348.0	315.0	33.0	22.0	*6.0*	*6.0*	.1
1979								
January	356.2	329.6	308.3	21.3	26.6	*7.5*	*6.4*	*
February	358.6	336.5	313.3	23.2	22.1	*6.2*	*6.4*	1.0
March	366.1	346.2	318.4	27.8	19.9	*5.4*		*
April	*379.1*	*361.4*	*327.2*	*34.2*	*17.7*	*4.7*		*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

Table II

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1977								
January	31.4	29.0	28.1	.9	2.4	*7.7*	*8.1*	*
February	31.4	29.3	28.3	1.0	2.1	*6.8*	*8.0*	*
March	32.1	29.9	28.7	1.2	2.2	*7.0*	*7.7*	*
April	32.2	30.3	28.8	1.5	1.9	*5.9*	*6.6*	*
May	32.7	30.8	29.3	1.5	1.9	*5.8*	*5.9*	*
June	34.1	32.0	30.3	1.7	2.1	*6.0*	*6.0*	*
July	34.3	32.2	30.4	1.8	2.1	*6.2*	*5.8*	.8
August	34.5	32.4	30.5	1.9	2.1	*6.1*	*5.5*	*
September	34.8	32.7	31.2	1.5	2.1	*6.0*	*5.3*	*
October	34.1	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.2	*6.3*	*5.5*	.3
November	34.0	32.0	30.9	1.1	2.0	*5.9*	*6.2*	.3
December	34.0	31.7	30.8	.9	2.3	*6.6*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	*6.4*	*6.4*	.1
1978								
January	33.2	30.4	29.5	.9	2.8	*8.3*	*7.8*	*
February	33.7	31.0	30.1	.9	2.7	*8.0*	*7.5*	*
March	34.7	32.1	31.0	1.1	2.6	*7.4*	*7.5*	*
April	34.5	32.5	31.1	1.4	2.0	*5.8*	*5.9*	*
May	35.0	33.1	31.7	1.4	1.9	*5.4*	*5.0*	*
June	37.1	34.3	32.7	1.6	2.8	*7.4*	*6.0*	*
July	37.1	34.8	33.1	1.7	2.3	*6.3*	*5.4*	*
August	37.0	34.7	32.8	1.9	2.3	*6.2*	*5.1*	*
September	36.8	34.5	33.0	1.5	2.3	*6.2*	*4.7*	*
October	36.0	33.9	32.7	1.2	2.1	*5.9*	*4.7*	*
November	36.3	33.6	32.5	1.1	2.7	*7.4*	*5.8*	*
December	35.6	32.8	31.9	.9	2.8	*7.9*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	35.6	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.4	*6.8*	*6.0*	*
1979								
January	34.9	31.9	31.1	.8	3.0	*8.6*	*7.5*	*
February	34.6	32.2	31.3	.9	2.4	*6.9*	*6.2*	*
March	35.1	33.0	31.9	1.1	2.1	*6.1*	*5.4*	*
April	*35.2*	*33.4*	*32.0*	*1.4*	*1.8*	*5.3*	*4.7*	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. *Series began January 1970.*

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment. *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA

Table III

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] County	Percent[1] State	
1977								
January	48.0	45.0	44.0	1.0	3.0	*6.2*	*8.1*	*
February	48.2	45.3	44.2	1.1	2.9	*6.0*	*8.0*	*
March	49.0	46.3	44.9	1.4	2.7	*5.6*	*7.7*	*
April	49.4	47.0	45.3	1.7	2.4	*4.8*	*6.6*	*
May	50.0	47.7	46.0	1.7	2.3	*4.6*	*5.9*	*
June	51.7	49.4	47.4	2.0	2.3	*4.4*	*6.0*	*
July	51.9	49.6	47.5	2.1	2.3	*4.4*	*5.8*	*
August	52.6	50.3	48.0	2.3	2.3	*4.3*	*5.5*	*
September	52.9	50.7	48.9	1.8	2.2	*4.2*	*5.3*	*
October	51.6	49.3	47.8	1.5	2.3	*4.4*	*5.5*	*
November	52.0	49.7	48.4	1.3	2.3	*4.4*	*6.2*	*
December	52.7	50.3	49.2	1.1	2.4	*4.6*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	50.8	48.4	46.8	1.6	2.4	*4.8*	*6.4*	*
1978								
January	51.1	48.0	47.0	1.0	3.1	*6.1*	*7.8*	*
February	51.4	48.5	47.4	1.1	2.9	*5.6*	*7.5*	*
March	52.9	49.7	48.4	1.3	3.2	*6.1*	*7.5*	*
April	53.8	51.5	49.9	1.6	2.3	*4.3*	*5.9*	*
May	53.8	51.7	50.0	1.7	2.1	*3.9*	*5.0*	*
June	55.7	53.0	51.1	1.9	2.7	*4.8*	*6.0*	*
July	55.3	53.0	51.0	2.0	2.3	*4.2*	*5.4*	*
August	55.0	52.7	50.5	2.2	2.3	*4.1*	*5.1*	*
September	55.5	53.4	51.7	1.7	2.1	*3.8*	*4.7*	*
October	54.6	52.8	51.4	1.4	1.8	*3.2*	*4.7*	*
November	55.2	52.6	51.4	1.2	2.6	*4.8*	*5.8*	*
December	54.4	51.7	50.6	1.1	2.7	*4.9*	*6.4*	*
Avg.	54.1	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.5	*4.6*	*6.0*	*
1979								
January	53.5	50.5	49.5	1.0	3.0	*5.7*	*7.4*	*
February	52.9	50.5	49.4	1.1	2.4	*4.5*	*6.2*	*
March	53.4	51.3	50.0	1.3	2.1	*4.0*	*5.4*	*
April	*54.9*	*53.1*	*51.5*	*1.6*	*1.8*	*3.3*	*4.7*	*
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.* *Series began January 1970.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.* *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

* *Under 50.* *Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.*

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table IV

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

March 1979
in Thousands

INDUSTRY	March 1979	Feb. 1979	March 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: Feb. 1979	March 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	366.1	358.6	355.1	7.5	11.0
EMPLOYED PERSONS	346.2	336.5	328.6	9.7	17.6
Persons Employed in Agriculture	27.8	23.2	28.6	4.6	-.8
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	19.9	22.1	2.65	-2.2	-6.6
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*5.4*	*6.2*	*7.5*	*-.8*	*-2.1*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*4.5*	*4.9*	*6.4*	*-.4*	*-1.9*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*277.0*	*272.1*	*265.1*	*4.9*	*11.9*
MANUFACTURING	*26.7*	*26.9*	*24.8*	*-.2*	*1.9*
Durable Goods	*17.6*	*17.5*	*16.4*	*.1*	*1.2*
24 Lumber and Wood Products	*10.8*	*10.8*	*10.0*	*0*	*.8*
33 Primary Metal Industries	*3.3*	*3.3*	*3.2*	*0*	*.1*
Other Durable Goods	*3.5*	*3.4*	*3.2*	*.1*	*.3*
Nondurable Goods	*9.1*	*9.4*	*8.4*	*-.3*	*.7*
20 Food and Kindred Products	*4.0*	*4.3*	*3.7*	*-.3*	*.3*
27 Printing and Publishing	*2.3*	*2.3*	*2.2*	*0*	*.1*
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	*1.1*	*1.0*	*1.1*	*.1*	*0*
Other Nondurable Goods	*1.7*	*1.8*	*1.4*	*-.1*	*.3*
MINING	*7.3*	*7.3*	*6.1*	*0*	*1.2*
10 Metal Mining	*2.2*	*2.2*	*2.0*	*0*	*.2*
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.7*	*0*	*.2*
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	*3.2*	*3.2*	*2.4*	*0*	*.8*
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	*14.1*	*13.3*	*13.1*	*.8*	*1.0*
15 General Building Contractors	*4.6*	*4.3*	*4.4*	*.3*	*.2*
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	*3.8*	*3.7*	*3.6*	*.1*	*.2*
17 Special Trade Contractors	*5.7*	*5.3*	*5.1*	*.4*	*.6*
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	*21.8*	*21.6*	*20.4*	*.2*	*1.4*
40 Railroad Transportation	*6.6*	*6.6*	*6.3*	*0*	*.3*
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	*6.7*	*6.6*	*6.3*	*.1*	*.4*
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	*8.5*	*8.4*	*7.8*	*.1*	*.7*
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	*71.7*	*70.3*	*67.3*	*1.4*	*4.4*
Wholesale Trade	*16.7*	*16.3*	*15.7*	*.4*	*1.0*
Retail Trade	*55.0*	*54.0*	*51.6*	*1.0*	*3.4*
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories	*8.1*	*8.2*	*7.8*	*-.1*	*.3*
54 Food Stores	*7.6*	*7.6*	*7.1*	*0*	*.5*
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	*8.4*	*8.5*	*8.3*	*-.1*	*.1*
58 Eating and Drinking Places	*20.2*	*19.1*	*18.2*	*1.1*	*2.0*
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc.	*10.7*	*10.6*	*10.2*	*.1*	*.5*
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	*12.7*	*12.5*	*11.7*	*.2*	*1.0*
SERVICES	*52.8*	*51.9*	*49.8*	*.9*	*3.0*
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	*6.8*	*6.4*	*6.9*	*.1*	*.6*
72 Personal Services	*2.7*	*2.6*	*2.5*	*.1*	*.2*
80 Medical and other Health Services	*17.0*	*16.9*	*16.8*	*.1*	*.2*
Other Services	*26.6*	*26.0*	*24.6*	*.6*	*2.0*
GOVERNMENT	*69.3*	*68.3*	*71.9*	*1.6*	*-2.0*
91 Federal Government	*11.2*	*11.3*	*12.5*	*-.1*	*-1.3*
92 State Colleges and Universities	*8.6*	*8.5*	*8.8*	*.1*	*-.2*
92 Other State Government	*11.0*	*10.1*	*11.3*	*.9*	*-.3*
93 Local Education	*25.5*	*25.1*	*25.6*	*.4*	*-.1*
93 Other Local Government	*13.6*	*13.3*	*13.7*	*.3*	*-.1*

1/ *Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*
2/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

March 1979

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	March 1979	Feb. 1979	March 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: Feb. 1979	March 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	35.1	34.6	34.7	.5	.4
EMPLOYED PERSONS	33.0	32.2	32.1	.8	.9
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.1	.9	1.1	.2	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.1	2.4	2.6	-.3	-.5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*6.1*	*6.9*	*7.4*	*-.8*	*-1.3*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*5.4*	*6.3*	*6.7*	*-.9*	*-1.3*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*30.3*	*29.5*	*29.3*	*.8*	*1.0*
Manufacturing	*1.8*	*1.8*	*1.8*	*0*	*0*
Contract Construction	*1.6*	*1.4*	*1.6*	*.2*	*0*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.8*	*0*	*.1*
Trade	*10.0*	*9.7*	*9.5*	*.3*	*.5*
Wholesale Trade	*2.6*	*2.5*	*2.6*	*.1*	*0*
Retail Trade	*7.4*	*7.2*	*6.9*	*.2*	*.5*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.0*	*2.0*	*2.0*	*0*	*0*
Services and Mining	*6.8*	*6.6*	*6.4*	*.2*	*.4*
Government	*6.2*	*6.1*	*6.2*	*.1*	*0*
Federal Government	*1.9*	*1.9*	*1.9*	*0*	*0*
State and Local Government	*4.3*	*4.2*	*4.3*	*.1*	*0*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.
2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table VI

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

March 1979

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	March 1979	Feb. 1979	March 1978	Net Changes to Current Month from: Feb. 1979	March 1978
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS[1]	53.4	52.9	52.9	.5	.5
EMPLOYED PERSONS	51.3	50.5	49.7	.8	1.6
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.3	1.1	1.3	.2	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.1	2.4	3.2	-.3	-1.1
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted[2]	*4.0*	*4.5*	*6.1*	*-.5*	*-2.1*
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted[2]	*3.3*	*3.7*	*5.4*	*-.4*	*-2.1*
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	*45.0*	*44.2*	*43.5*	*.8*	*1.5*
Manufacturing	*4.3*	*4.2*	*3.9*	*.1*	*.4*
Contract Construction	*2.0*	*1.8*	*2.0*	*.2*	*0*
Transportation and Public Utilities	*4.2*	*4.2*	*3.8*	*0*	*.4*
Trade	*15.5*	*15.4*	*14.7*	*.1*	*.8*
Wholesale Trade	*5.3*	*5.3*	*5.0*	*0*	*.3*
Retail Trade	*10.2*	*10.1*	*9.7*	*.1*	*.5*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	*2.2*	*2.2*	*2.1*	*0*	*.1*
Services and Mining	*9.3*	*8.9*	*8.9*	*.4*	*.4*
Government	*7.5*	*7.5*	*8.1*	*0*	*-.6*
Federal Government	*1.5*	*1.5*	*1.4*	*0*	*.1*
State and Local Government	*6.0*	*6.0*	*6.7*	*0*	*-.7*

1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.
2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary. *Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.*

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979	Mar. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979	Mar. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979	Mar. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1979	Mar. 1979
STATEWIDE	356.2	358.6	366.1	329.6	336.5	346.2	26.6	22.1	19.9	7.5	6.2	5.4
GREAT FALLS SMSA	34.9	34.6	35.1	31.9	32.2	33.0	3.0	2.4	2.1	8.6	6.9	6.1
BILLINGS SMSA	53.1	52.9	53.4	50.0	50.5	51.3	3.1	2.4	2.1	5.8	4.5	4.0
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	268.2	271.1	277.6	247.7	253.8	261.9	20.5	17.3	15.7	7.7	6.4	5.6
ANACONDA-BUTTE	34.6	35.0	35.3	32.0	32.7	33.3	2.6	2.3	2.0	7.6	6.7	5.6
BOZEMAN	26.0	26.2	26.6	24.3	24.8	25.4	1.7	1.4	1.2	6.5	5.2	4.4
GLASGOW	14.9	15.3	16.0	14.1	14.6	15.3	.8	.7	.7	5.6	4.7	4.2
GLENDIVE	13.2	13.2	13.8	12.6	12.8	13.4	.6	.4	.4	4.3	3.4	3.1
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.8	11.9	12.4	11.0	11.3	11.9	.8	.6	.5	6.4	4.9	4.4
HAVRE	12.0	12.1	12.4	11.2	11.4	11.8	.8	.7	.6	7.0	6.0	5.2
HELENA	27.4	28.0	28.1	25.4	26.2	26.7	2.0	1.8	1.4	7.2	6.5	4.9
KALISPELL	38.3	38.4	39.4	34.4	35.2	36.0	3.9	3.2	3.4	10.3	8.4	8.5
LEWISTOWN	9.8	10.1	10.6	9.2	9.6	10.1	.6	.5	.5	6.2	4.9	4.4
MILES CITY	13.8	14.3	14.9	12.9	13.5	14.2	.9	.8	.7	6.4	5.3	4.5
MISSOULA	50.4	50.3	51.2	45.8	46.6	47.8	4.6	3.7	3.4	9.0	7.3	6.7
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.1	16.3	17.0	14.8	15.2	16.1	1.3	1.1	.9	7.9	6.9	5.3

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. May inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS[1/]

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Mar. 1979	Mar. 1978	Percent Change 1978-1979	Mar. 1979	Mar. 1978	Percent Change 1978-1979	Mar. 1979	Mar. 1978	Net Change 1978-1979	Mar. 1979	Mar. 1978	Net Change 1978-1979
STATEWIDE	366.1	355.1	*3.1*	346.2	328.6	*5.4*	19.9	26.5	*-6.6*	5.4	7.5	*-2.1*
GREAT FALLS SMSA	35.1	34.7	*1.2*	33.0	32.1	*2.8*	2.1	2.6	*-.5*	6.1	7.4	*-1.3*
BILLINGS SMSA	53.4	52.9	*.9*	51.3	49.7	*3.2*	2.1	3.2	*-1.1*	4.0	6.1	*-2.1*
BALANCE OF STATE[2/]	277.6	267.5	*3.8*	261.9	246.8	*6.1*	15.7	20.7	*-5.0*	5.6	7.7	*-2.1*
ANACONDA-BUTTE	35.3	34.4	*2.6*	33.3	31.6	*5.4*	2.0	2.8	*-.8*	5.6	8.0	*-2.4*
BOZEMAN	26.6	25.3	*5.1*	25.4	23.8	*6.7*	1.2	1.5	*-.3*	4.4	5.9	*-1.5*
GLASGOW	16.0	15.8	*1.3*	15.3	14.7	*4.1*	.7	1.1	*-.4*	4.2	7.0	*-2.8*
GLENDIVE	13.8	13.7	*.7*	13.4	12.9	*3.9*	.4	.8	*-.4*	3.1	6.0	*-2.9*
HARDIN-RED LODGE	12.4	11.7	*6.0*	11.9	10.8	*10.2*	.5	.9	*-.4*	4.4	7.5	*-3.1*
HAVRE	12.4	12.2	*1.6*	11.8	11.4	*3.5*	.6	.8	*-.2*	5.2	6.5	*-1.3*
HELENA	28.1	27.5	*2.2*	26.7	25.7	*3.9*	1.4	1.8	*-.4*	4.9	6.4	*-1.5*
KALISPELL	39.4	37.2	*5.9*	36.0	33.0	*9.1*	3.4	4.2	*-.8*	8.5	11.2	*-2.7*
LEWISTOWN	10.6	10.4	*1.9*	10.1	9.6	*5.2*	.5	.8	*-.3*	4.4	7.4	*-3.0*
MILES CITY	14.9	14.4	*3.5*	14.2	13.5	*5.2*	.7	.9	*-.2*	4.5	6.4	*-1.9*
MISSOULA	51.2	48.4	*5.8*	47.8	44.4	*7.7*	3.4	4.0	*-.6*	6.7	8.2	*-1.5*
SHELBY-CUT BANK	17.0	16.7	*1.8*	16.1	15.5	*3.9*	.9	1.2	*-.3*	5.3	7.4	*-2.1*

1/ A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.
2/ Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table IX A

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA
MARCH 1979

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	366121	346205	19916	5.4
CASCADE	35130	32985	2145	6.1
YELLOWSTONE	53379	51268	2111	4.0
BEAVERHEAD	4300	4138	162	3.8
BIG HORN	5795	5528	267	4.6
BLAINE	3016	2808	208	6.9
BROADWATER	1673	1606	67	4.0
CARBON	3055	2886	169	5.5
CARTER	822	752	70	8.5
CHOUTEAU	2807	2739	68	2.4
CUSTER	5876	5593	283	4.8
DANIELS	1422	1388	34	2.4
DAWSON	5473	5279	194	3.5
DEER LODGE	6016	5637	379	6.3
FALLON	2148	2102	46	2.1
FERGUS	5856	5637	219	3.7
FLATHEAD	23074	21259	1815	7.9
GALLATIN	19982	19248	734	3.7
GARFIELD	810	754	56	6.9
GLACIER	5312	4861	451	8.5
GOLDEN VALLEY	368	351	17	4.6
GRANITE	1475	1380	95	6.4
HILL	8321	7929	392	4.7
JEFFERSON	2270	2112	158	7.0
JUDITH BASIN	1164	1047	117	10.1
LAKE	8498	8005	493	5.8
LEWIS AND CLARK	24176	23017	1159	4.8
LIBERTY	1059	1016	43	4.1
LINCOLN	7780	6727	1053	13.5
MC CONE	1163	1142	21	1.8
MADISON	2056	1985	71	3.5
MEAGHER	941	881	60	6.4
MINERAL	1618	1460	158	9.8
MISSOULA	37931	35648	2283	6.0
MUSSELSHELL	1688	1608	80	4.7
PARK	5672	5289	383	6.8
PETROLEUM	295	292	3	1.0
PHILLIPS	2541	2431	110	4.3
PONDERA	3346	3200	146	4.4
POWDER RIVER	1125	1084	41	3.6
POWELL	4007	3817	190	4.7
PRAIRIE	776	747	29	3.7
RAVALLI	7950	7325	625	7.9
RICHLAND	4987	4884	103	2.1
ROOSEVELT	4847	4603	244	5.0
ROSEBUD	4422	4211	211	4.8
SANDERS	3702	3346	356	9.6
SHERIDAN	2537	2494	43	1.7
SILVER BOW	17434	16346	1088	6.2
STILLWATER	2056	1968	88	4.3
SWEET GRASS	1542	1523	19	1.2
TETON	2811	2706	105	3.7
TOOLE	2733	2602	131	4.8
TREASURE	449	428	21	4.7
VALLEY	4602	4356	246	5.3
WHEATLAND	1171	1146	25	2.1
WIBAUX	662	631	31	4.7

Table IX B

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE BY COUNTY
CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY DATA
FEBRUARY 1979

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	358530	336465	22065	6.2
CASCADE	34577	32182	2395	6.9
YELLOWSTONE	52877	50495	2382	4.5
BEAVERHEAD	4166	3980	186	4.5
BIG HORN	5573	5274	299	5.4
BLAINE	2926	2709	217	7.4
BROADWATER	1619	1546	73	4.5
CARBON	2901	2733	168	5.8
CARTER	769	683	86	11.2
CHOUTEAU	2586	2504	82	3.2
CUSTER	5628	5347	281	5.0
DANIELS	1327	1304	23	1.7
DAWSON	5271	5076	195	3.7
DEER LODGE	6058	5579	479	7.9
FALLON	2108	2047	61	2.9
FERGUS	5601	5362	239	4.3
FLATHEAD	22572	20795	1777	7.9
GALLATIN	19727	18838	889	4.5
GARFIELD	751	698	53	7.1
GLACIER	5292	4760	532	10.1
GOLDEN VALLEY	351	318	33	9.4
GRANITE	1437	1333	104	7.2
HILL	8126	7702	424	5.2
JEFFERSON	2565	2188	377	14.7
JUDITH BASIN	1057	946	111	10.5
LAKE	8198	7599	599	7.3
LEWIS AND CLARK	23862	22484	1378	5.8
LIBERTY	1016	937	79	7.8
LINCOLN	7694	6828	866	11.3
MC CONE	1092	1061	31	2.9
MADISON	1957	1862	95	4.9
MEAGHER	875	829	46	5.3
MINERAL	1540	1379	161	10.5
MISSOULA	37304	34866	2438	6.5
MUSSELSHELL	1640	1569	71	4.3
PARK	5589	5150	439	7.9
PETROLEUM	272	266	6	2.2
PHILLIPS	2435	2325	110	4.5
PONDERA	3209	3024	185	5.8
POWDER RIVER	1020	976	44	4.3
POWELL	3936	3740	196	5.0
PRAIRIE	736	689	47	6.4
RAVALLI	7817	7093	724	9.3
RICHLAND	4748	4663	85	1.8
ROOSEVELT	4651	4410	241	5.2
ROSEBUD	4329	4063	266	6.1
SANDERS	3598	3259	339	9.4
SHERIDAN	2430	2369	61	2.5
SILVER BOW	17431	16151	1280	7.3
STILLWATER	1970	1881	89	4.5
SWEET GRASS	1449	1422	27	1.9
TETON	2627	2488	139	5.3
TOOLE	2649	2454	195	7.4
TREASURE	423	404	19	4.5
VALLEY	4437	4158	279	6.3
WHEATLAND	1129	1097	32	2.8
WIBAUX	612	580	32	5.2

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

Table X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

March 1979

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
	March 1979 1/	Feb. 1979	March 1979	Net Change to Current Month From: Feb. 1979	Net Change to Current Month From: March 1978	Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
						March 1979		February 1979	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	124.1	122.4	115.9	1.7	8.2	277.0	*44.8*	272.1	*45.0*
Manufacturing	3.1	3.1	2.8	0	.3	26.7	*11.6*	26.9	*11.5*
Mining	.4	.4	.3	0	.1	7.3	*5.5*	7.3	*5.5*
Contract Construction	1.3	1.3	1.1	0	.2	14.1	*9.2*	13.3	*9.8*
Transportation & Public Utilities .	4.2	4.1	3.7	.1	.5	21.8	*19.3*	21.6	*19.0*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	35.6	35.6	31.2	0	4.4	71.7	*49.7*	70.3	*50.6*
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	8.3	8.3	7.9	0	.4	12.7	*65.4*	12.5	*66.4*
Services	35.1	34.8	33.4	.3	1.7	52.8	*66.5*	51.9	*67.0*
Government 2/	36.1	34.8	35.5	1.3	.6	69.9	*51.6*	68.3	*51.0*

1/ Current month preliminary. Revised to 1978 Benchmark. Establishment Series began January 1974.

2/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1978

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	114.7	115.0	116.9	119.5	120.8	123.8	121.3	122.1	120.4	122.2	122.3	127.7	120.6
Manufacturing	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4	.4
Contract Construction	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Transport. & Public Utilities.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.7	30.5	31.2	32.2	33.2	33.7	32.9	35.3	35.5	35.3	35.2	38.5	33.7
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	7.4	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.8	8.0
Services	33.8	34.0	33.4	35.2	35.4	37.6	36.6	34.0	34.3	34.1	34.3	35.2	34.8
Government	34.9	35.3	35.5	35.7	35.8	35.6	34.6	35.4	33.7	35.6	35.8	37.2	35.4

1979

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	126.7	122.4
Manufacturing.....	3.1	3.1
Mining	.4	.4
Contract Construction.....	1.3	1.3
Transport. & Public Utilities.	4.1	4.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	38.7	35.6
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate..	8.4	8.3
Services.....	35.0	34.8
Government.....	35.7	34.8

1/ Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Establishment Series began January, 1974. Revised to 1978 Benchmark.
Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS*

Composite Index of
SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS

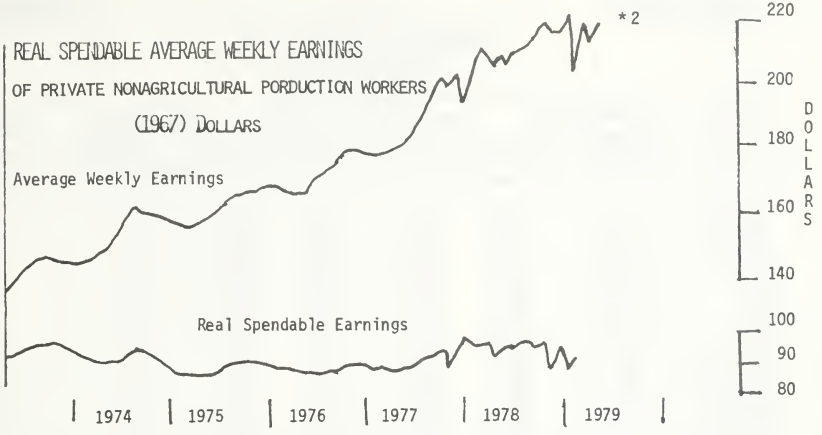
1978	
January	100.1
February	100.2
March	103.1
April	103.8
May	102.4
June	101.7
July	101.3
August	101.8
September	102.6
October	101.1
November	98.8
December	102.5
1979	
January	97.4
February	98.9
March	
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

Figures for accessions, weekly initial claims, and average weekly hours in manufacturing showed improvement for the period. The figure for layoffs remained unchanged while manufacturing employment and building permits registered declines. Improving components had the greater influence in controlling the direction of the index's movement this month over last month. Little indication of a trend is visible in the composite index because of the erratic movement demonstrated in past months. It does apper that stable and slow growth can be expected in upcoming months.

* *Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.*

** *Indicates last month of plotted data.*



	Jan. 1979	Dec. 1978	Jan. 1978
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	$219.57	$215.42	$209.10
Taxes Withheld	32.79	31.62	32.68
Spendable Earnings	186.79	183.81	176.42
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	96.60	94.02	82.79
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	90.19	89.79	93.63

	Average Weekly Earnings	Real Spendable Earnings
1978		
July	217.49	92.67
Aug.	214.68	91.19
Sep.	215.27	90.81
Oct.	218.40	91.15
Nov.	200.99	84.45
Dec.	217.56	89.87
1979		
Jan.	215.42	89.79
Feb.	219.57	90.19
Mar.		
Apr.		
May		
June		
July		
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

Inflation, as reflected by the Consumer Price Index, is the underlying force in creating only a slight increase in real spendable earnings when a substantial rise in gross wages is reflected. The 1.9% increase in gross wages produced a .4% increase in real spendable earnings from January to February. Gross earnings showed a 5.0% increase over the past twelve months, while real spendable earnings fell by 3.7% for the same period. The modest increase to $90.19 in real spendable earnings for February put the indicator on the positive side at this time with the recent inflationary trend expected to change moderately.

* *Indicates Last Month of Plotted Data* *p: Preliminary*

1/ Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

2/ Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1] Montana	Percent[1] U. S.	
1977								
January	336.8	315.4	281.4	34.0	21.4	6.3	7.4	*
February	338.6	316.6	281.8	34.8	22.0	6.5	7.6	*
March	339.1	316.8	281.9	34.9	22.3	6.6	7.4	.1
April	339.8	317.5	282.0	35.5	22.3	6.6	7.1	*
May	342.4	319.3	284.4	34.9	23.1	6.7	7.1	*
June	339.5	319.8	284.8	35.0	19.7	5.8	7.1	.1
July	343.7	321.8	286.6	35.2	21.9	6.4	6.9	3.4
August	352.0	329.5	294.7	34.8	22.5	6.4	7.0	.2
September	353.1	330.4	296.3	34.1	22.7	6.4	6.8	.1
October	349.4	327.0	293.3	33.7	22.4	6.4	6.8	.4
November	350.3	328.2	294.6	33.6	22.1	6.3	6.7	.3
December	355.1	333.5	299.9	33.6	21.6	6.1	6.3	*
Avg.	345.0	323.0	288.5	34.5	22.0	6.4	7.0	.4
1978								
January	359.8	337.4	304.0	33.4	22.4	6.2	6.3	*
February	362.6	340.4	306.7	33.7	22.2	6.1	6.1	*
March	367.3	343.8	310.2	33.6	23.5	6.4	6.2	*
April	369.6	348.0	314.7	33.3	21.6	5.8	6.1	*
May	372.7	351.2	318.1	33.1	21.5	5.8	6.1	.1
June	374.8	352.8	319.8	33.0	22.0	5.9	5.8	.4
July	375.8	353.6	320.7	32.9	22.2	5.9	6.1	.2
August	371.1	349.3	316.6	32.7	21.8	5.9	5.9	.1
September	372.4	350.8	318.2	32.6	21.6	5.8	5.9	.1
October	370.6	350.0	317.4	32.6	20.6	5.6	5.8	.1
November	372.8	350.7	318.0	32.7	22.1	5.9	5.8	.1
December	370.5	347.9	315.1	32.8	22.6	6.1	5.9	.1
Avg.	370.0	348.0	315.0	33.0	22.0	6.0	6.0	.1
1979								
January	377.4	354.9	322.2	32.7	22.5	6.0	5.8	*
February	378.7	360.1	327.1	33.0	18.6	4.9	5.7	1.0
March	378.2	361.3	328.6	32.7	16.9	4.5		*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*

2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*

* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIII
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute 2/
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent 1/ County	Percent 1/ State	
1977								
January	32.7	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.3	*
February	32.9	30.9	29.5	1.4	2.0	6.1	6.5	*
March	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.2	6.6	*
April	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.0	6.6	*
May	32.7	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.7	*
June	32.8	31.0	29.6	1.4	1.8	5.4	5.8	*
July	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	6.3	6.4	.8
August	33.5	31.3	29.9	1.4	2.2	6.7	6.4	*
September	34.2	31.9	30.6	1.3	2.3	6.8	6.4	*
October	34.0	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.4	6.9	6.4	.3
November	33.9	31.8	30.5	1.3	2.1	6.3	6.3	.3
December	34.5	32.2	30.9	1.3	2.3	6.7	6.1	*
Avg.	33.3	31.2	29.8	1.4	2.1	6.4	6.4	.1
1978								
January	34.5	32.0	30.7	1.3	2.5	7.1	6.2	*
February	35.1	32.5	31.2	1.3	2.6	7.3	6.1	*
March	35.0	32.7	31.4	1.3	2.3	6.7	6.4	*
April	35.9	32.8	31.5	1.3	3.1	8.5	5.8	*
May	36.1	33.0	31.7	1.3	3.1	8.6	5.8	*
June	35.9	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.5	6.8	5.9	*
July	36.0	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.3	6.4	5.9	*
August	36.0	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.4	6.7	5.9	*
September	36.2	33.7	32.4	1.3	2.5	7.0	5.8	*
October	35.9	33.6	32.3	1.3	2.3	6.4	5.6	*
November	36.2	33.4	32.1	1.3	2.8	7.7	5.9	*
December	36.1	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.9	8.0	6.1	*
Avg.	35.6	33.2	31.9	1.3	2.4	6.8	6.0	*
1979								
January	36.2	33.5	32.2	1.3	2.7	7.4	6.0	*
February	36.1	33.8	32.5	1.3	2.3	6.3	4.9	*
March	35.5	33.6	32.3	1.3	1.9	5.4	4.5	*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ *Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.*
2/ *Non-additive - included in total employment.*
* *Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.
Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.
Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XIV

BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Civilian Labor Force

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute[2/]
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent[1/] County	Percent[1/] State	
1977								
January	49.5	47.0	45.5	1.5	2.5	5.0	6.3	*
February	50.0	47.5	45.9	1.6	2.5	5.1	6.5	*
March	50.2	47.8	46.2	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.6	*
April	49.9	47.4	45.7	1.7	2.5	5.0	6.6	*
May	50.5	47.7	46.1	1.6	2.8	5.5	6.7	*
June	50.0	48.1	46.5	1.6	1.9	3.9	5.8	*
July	50.5	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.3	4.6	6.4	*
August	51.6	49.2	47.6	1.6	2.4	4.7	6.4	*
September	52.1	49.6	48.0	1.6	2.5	4.9	6.4	*
October	51.2	48.6	47.1	1.5	2.6	5.1	6.4	*
November	51.9	49.4	47.9	1.5	2.5	4.8	6.3	*
December	52.4	50.0	48.5	1.5	2.4	4.5	6.1	*
Avg.	50.8	48.4	46.8	1.6	2.4	4.8	6.4	*
1978								
January	52.7	50.1	48.6	1.5	2.6	5.0	6.2	*
February	53.2	50.7	49.1	1.6	2.5	4.8	6.1	*
March	54.1	51.2	49.6	1.6	2.9	5.4	6.4	*
April	54.2	51.8	50.2	1.6	2.4	4.4	5.8	*
May	54.2	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.5	4.7	5.8	*
June	54.1	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.9	*
July	54.1	51.7	50.2	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.9	*
August	54.0	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.4	4.5	5.9	*
September	54.7	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.4	4.4	5.8	*
October	54.2	52.1	50.6	1.5	2.1	3.8	5.6	*
November	55.1	52.3	50.8	1.5	2.8	5.2	5.9	*
December	54.1	51.5	50.0	1.5	2.6	4.9	6.1	*
Avg.	54.1	51.6	50.1	1.5	2.5	4.6	6.0	*
1979								
January	54.6	52.0	50.5	1.5	2.6	4.7	6.0	*
February	54.7	52.7	51.2	1.5	2.0	3.7	4.9	*
March	54.6	52.8	51.3	1.5	1.8	3.3	4.5	*
April								
May								
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

** Under 50.*

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1978 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Table XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March 1979	Feb. 1979	March 1978	March 1979	Feb. 1979	March 1978	March 1979	Feb. 1979	March 1978
TOTAL PRIVATE	$218.74	$219.57	$203.28	35.8	35.3	35.6	$6.11	$6.22	$5.71
MANUFACTURING	341.43	338.55	324.00	42.1	40.4	43.2	8.11	8.38	7.50
Durable Goods	341.01	341.48	320.29	42.1	39.8	43.4	8.10	8.58	7.38
Primary Metal Industries	368.95	368.95	318.80	39.8	39.8	40.0	9.27	9.27	7.97
Nondurable Goods	342.27	329.92	332.21	42.1	41.5	42.7	8.13	7.95	7.78
Food and Kindred Products	275.16	258.69	287.29	43.4	42.2	45.1	6.31	6.13	6.37
MINING	457.33	460.27	363.65	48.6	48.5	41.8	9.41	9.49	8.70
Metal Mining	452.28	452.28	392.22	40.6	40.6	39.9	11.14	11.14	9.83
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	334.43	333.00	414.59	34.3	33.3	31.6	9.75	10.00	13.12
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	329.27	325.21	297.36	40.5	40.1	41.3	8.13	8.11	7.20
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	322.18	320.30	284.57	42.9	42.9	42.6	7.51	7.59	6.68
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	169.14	171.48	156.56	33.1	32.6	33.1	5.11	5.26	4.73
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	144.06	154.13	144.36	34.3	34.1	37.4	4.20	4.52	3.86
SERVICES	139.70	140.03	131.27	33.5	33.5	32.9	4.17	4.18	3.99

Data for current month are preliminary.
Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.
Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

February 1979

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	Total			New Hires			Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978	Feb. 1979	Jan. 1979	Feb. 1978
MANUFACTURING	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.6	2.0	1.2	1.8	2.6	2.4	1.0	1.5	.8	.5	.2	1.3
Durable Goods	1.6	1.5	2.4	.7	1.3	1.6	1.0	2.2	1.3	.5	1.0	.7	.3	.2	.3
Primary Metal Industries	4.4	1.0	1.2	.8	.5	1.2	1.6	3.2	.3	.2	.9	.1	.8	.5	0
Nondurable Goods	3.2	3.5	.8	3.0	3.1	.6	3.2	3.3	4.6	1.9	2.5	1.1	.9	.1	3.3
MINING	8.0	4.3	.2	4.7	4.1	0	6.6	3.5	2.7	5.2	3.0	1.0	.8	0	.1
Metal Mining	1.0	1.5	.7	0	.1	0	1.6	1.5	2.9	0	*	.1	0	0	.2

* *Less than .05.*
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

Industry	March 1979	March 1978	Year to Date 1979	Year to Date 1978
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	39	43	116	112
MINING	24	6	49	18
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	87	91	202	216
MANUFACTURING	30	19	70	55
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	22	14	70	52
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	124	127	325	336
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	55	39	154	134
SERVICES	145	114	409	363
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	5	3	21	7
STATE TOTAL	531	456	1416	1293

TABLE XVIII

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS March 1979	March 1978	Year to Date 1979	1978
STATE OF MONTANA	531	456	1416	1293
GREAT FALLS SMSA	46	38	107	116
BILLINGS SMSA	90	75	245	216
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	37	31	94	92
Beaverhead	7	5	16	14
Deer Lodge	4	1	11	9
Granite	0	1	6	4
Madison	4	7	13	16
Powell	1	3	2	10
Silver Bow	21	14	46	39
BOZEMAN LMA	50	40	112	117
Gallatin	40	33	84	94
Meagher	1	0	3	2
Park	9	7	25	21
GLASGOW LMA	14	9	49	27
Daniels	1	0	4	2
Phillips	4	0	11	4
Roosevelt	0	5	8	10
Sheridan	1	1	7	3
Valley	8	3	19	8
GLENDIVE LMA	44	23	83	48
Dawson	11	4	19	13
Garfield	1	4	2	4
McCone	1	2	2	3
Prairie	0	2	3	6
Richland	29	11	54	22
Wibaux	2	0	3	0
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	15	10	44	41
Big Horn	5	3	11	14
Carbon	5	5	20	16
Stillwater	2	1	6	4
Sweet Grass	3	1	7	7

Areas	NEW BUSINESS FIRMS March 1979	March 1978	Year to Date 1979	1978
HAVRE LMA	8	14	34	40
Blaine	2	4	6	8
Hill	3	6	24	22
Liberty	3	4	4	10
HELENA LMA	33	40	113	102
Broadwater	4	2	10	3
Jefferson	6	2	12	9
Lewis and Clark	23	36	91	90
KALISPELL LMA	70	52	171	146
Flathead	49	39	113	102
Lake	10	5	25	26
Lincoln	11	8	33	18
LEWISTOWN LMA	6	9	24	23
Fergus	4	8	15	15
Golden Valley	1	0	1	0
Judith Basin	1	0	4	0
Musselshell	0	1	3	4
Petroleum	0	0	0	1
Wheatland	0	0	1	3
MILES CITY LMA	11	17	41	37
Carter	0	2	0	4
Custer	5	2	20	9
Fallon	3	3	10	4
Powder River	0	2	1	4
Rosebud	3	8	9	16
Treasure	0	0	1	0
MISSOULA LMA	81	77	238	224
Mineral	2	1	5	4
Missoula	61	56	178	167
Ravalli	15	14	44	38
Sanders	3	6	11	15
SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	26	21	61	64
Chouteau	10	2	18	9
Glacier	2	7	10	19
Pondera	4	6	13	14
Teton	3	0	5	8
Toole	7	6	15	14

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified. Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

FTA5-155E DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

MARCH 1979

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	316	27,192.41
BIGHORN	425	38,548.38
BLAINE	220	17,032.54
BROADWATER	146	12,357.41
CARBON	453	43,501.55
CARTER	22	1,503.28
CASCADE	5,862	504,173.87
CHOUTEAU	123	10,305.60
CUSTER	579	51,831.86
DANIELS	33	2,397.00
DAWSON	297	27,435.32
DEER LODGE	916	77,418.13
FALLON	90	7,767.70
FERGUS	566	49,076.55
FLATHEAD	4,769	391,972.04
GALLATIN	2,135	173,352.79
GARFIELD	34	3,214.00
GLACIER	934	76,651.19
GOLDEN VALLEY	45	3,992.00
GRANITE	205	16,513.19
HILL	737	62,608.70
JEFFERSON	365	33,898.48
JUDITH BASIN	41	3,813.00
LAKE	1,144	93,640.14
LEWIS AND CLARK	2,996	256,420.15
LIBERTY	68	6,621.00
LINCOLN	2,698	239,043.92
MCCONE	38	3,874.00
MADISON	117	7,763.00
MEAGHER	86	6,748.00
MINERAL	402	34,336.41
MISSOULA	5,539	454,310.64
MUSSELSHELL	194	18,852.00
PARK	946	71,463.14
PETROLEUM	0	0.00
PHILLIPS	283	24,818.25
PONDERA	394	34,161.38
POWDER RIVER	39	3,936.00
POWELL	381	32,962.43
PRAIRIE	106	9,827.00
RAVALLI	1,509	119,883.98
RICHLAND	175	13,770.24
ROOSEVELT	412	30,410.57
ROSEBUD	446	39,276.98
SANDERS	861	72,100.54
SHERIDAN	56	5,150.00
SILVER BOW	2,923	246,098.51
STILLWATER	295	30,304.00
SWEET GRASS	41	2,726.34
TETON	260	20,588.52
TOOLE	372	29,379.77
TREASURE	53	4,419.00
VALLEY	603	49,388.48
WHEATLAND	14	889.00
WIBAUX	58	4,578.00
YELLOWSTONE	5,987	531,071.90
INTRASTATE	48,809	4,137,065.62
INTERSTATE	2,099	189,795.29
TOTAL (41.)	50,908	4,326,860.91

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY 1979 THRU MARCH 1979

COUNTY	COUNT	AMOUNT
BEAVERHEAD	1,001	87,924.42
BIGHORN	1,143	101,455.32
BLAINE	753	58,208.41
BROADWATER	495	43,694.76
CARBON	1,243	118,893.04
CARTER	55	4,471.28
CASCADE	18,170	1,573,525.02
CHOUTEAU	425	34,451.52
CUSTER	1,793	161,271.87
DANIELS	86	5,665.00
DAWSON	879	80,547.53
DEER LODGE	3,105	263,357.65
FALLON	176	15,448.70
FERGUS	1,791	156,392.62
FLATHEAD	12,266	1,007,989.50
GALLATIN	6,376	525,309.56
GARFIELD	92	8,040.00
GLACIER	2,927	240,974.19
GOLDEN VALLEY	77	7,119.00
GRANITE	605	49,694.92
HILL	2,285	193,343.54
JEFFERSON	1,160	109,724.90
JUDITH BASIN	128	12,046.00
LAKE	3,761	312,576.37
LEWIS AND CLARK	9,474	832,054.38
LIBERTY	215	20,690.40
LINCOLN	6,138	512,085.55
MCCONE	102	10,242.00
MADISON	322	22,463.00
MEAGHER	327	24,264.10
MINERAL	1,145	96,843.94
MISSOULA	16,476	1,371,301.26
MUSSELSHELL	462	44,124.00
PARK	2,669	201,741.06
PETROLEUM	1	104.00
PHILLIPS	686	61,789.49
PONDERA	1,128	99,836.46
POWDER RIVER	94	9,217.00
POWELL	1,184	101,846.08
PRAIRIE	262	24,926.00
RAVALLI	4,656	363,337.39
RICHLAND	443	36,541.24
ROOSEVELT	1,079	78,776.21
ROSEBUD	1,284	114,852.98
SANDERS	2,213	179,331.58
SHERIDAN	153	13,999.00
SILVER BOW	9,206	785,229.76
STILLWATER	792	80,946.00
SWEET GRASS	108	8,876.07
TETON	816	67,723.98
TOOLE	1,137	93,945.08
TREASURE	136	11,488.96
VALLEY	1,608	133,287.43
WHEATLAND	77	6,807.00
WIBAUX	103	8,146.00
YELLOWSTONE	16,723	1,493,424.19
INTRASTATE	142,036	12,096,710.10
INTERSTATE	5,947	556,934.55
TOTAL	147,983 (42)	12,653,644.65

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	1979	1978	Net Change	Percent Change
Initial Claims[1]	16,435	15,349	1,086	*7.1*
Continued Claims[1]	172,528	174,832	-2,304	*-1.3*
Number of Benefit Payments[1]	147,963	142,760	5,223	*3.7*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1]	$12,653,644	$11,440,308	$1,213,336	*10.6*
Average Weekly Benefit Amount[1/2]	$89.30	$84.98	$4.32	*5.1*

MONTHLY

	March 1979	Feb. 1979	March 1978	Change From Year Ago Net	Change From Year Ago Percent
Initial Claims[1]	3,521	4,654	3,811	-290	*-7.6*
Continued Claims[1]	58,026	53,686	62,048	-4,022	*-6.5*
Number of Benefit Payments[1]	50,908	47,607	51,882	-974	*-1.9*
Amount of Benefits Paid[1]	$4,526,861	$4,061,570	$4,079,912	$246,949	*6.1*
Avg. Weekly Benefit Amt[1/2]	$89.11	$89.08	$82.78	$6.33	*7.6*
Trust Fund Balance	-$2,662,331*	$1,394,442*	-$9,917,279*	$7,254,948	*73.2*

1/ Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.
2/ Derived according to definition in "Handbook of Unemployment Insurance Financial Data".
** Excludes Loans from Federal Government, which amount to $10,484,089.*

The initial claims were slightly less this March than a year ago, and showed a considerable drop from last month. However, the cumulative total for the first three months of 1979 was again higher than in 1978. More continued claims were counted this month than in February, but there were over 4,000 fewer this March than last March. The year-to-date total for 1979 was also down from the 1978 figure.

An increase in the number and amount of benefit payments was noted this month from last month. The dollar amount of benefits also rose from a year ago this month but there were not as many recipients. For January through March 1979 the number and amount of payments were larger than for the comparable months in 1978.

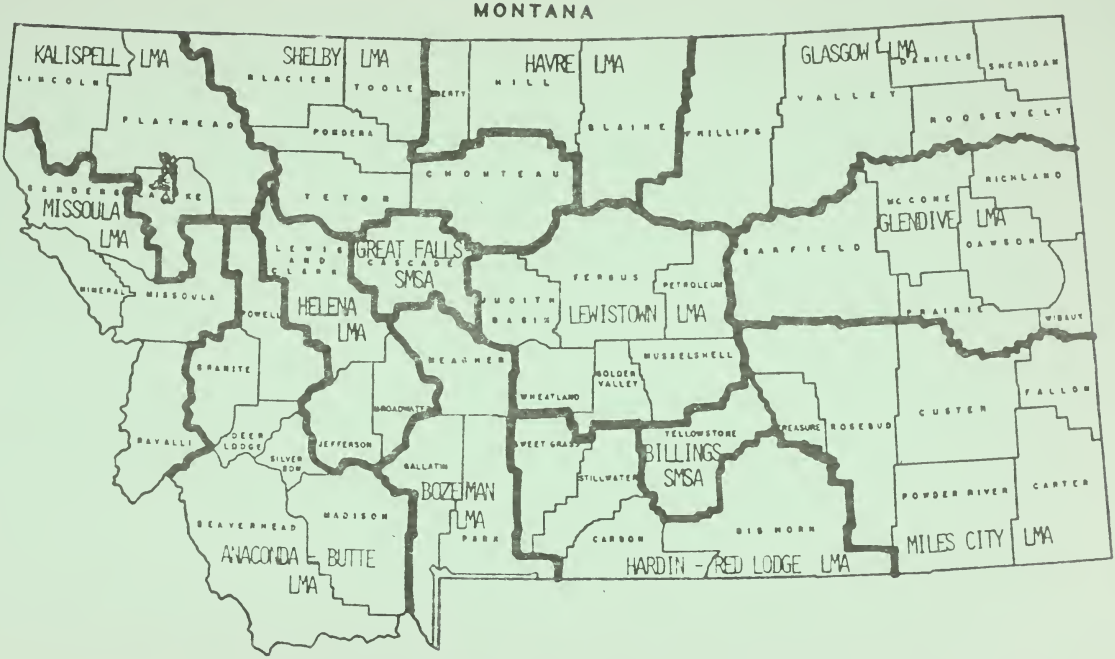
The Average Weekly Benefit Amount (AWBA) was nearly the same for March and February, but again this month was markedly greater than last year. The AWBA for the first quarter of 1979 also surpassed that of the same period last year.

The Trust Fund balance dwindled further in March, which is a normal occurrence for this time of year. The year-ago deficit was the highest for that period, indicating that the Fund should start to build up in the next few months.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
LAB-449

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.